

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

T. KATO et al

Serial No.

Filed: March 14, 2002

For: GAS INSULATING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
LOCATING FAULT POINT THEREOF**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**
UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

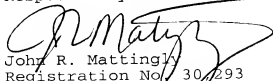
3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. A copy of each listed document is enclosed.

4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the documents listed in the attached PTO-1449 Form, because each is either in the English language, discussed in the present Specification, or its relevance is as stated in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, copy enclosed.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,


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FORM PTO-1449
 (REV. 7-80)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
 NIP-273

SERIAL NO.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT
 T. KATO et al
 FILING DATE
 March 14, 2002

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

* EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)
	AA					
	AB					
	AC					
	AD					
	AE					
	AF					
	AG					
	AH					
	AI					
	AJ					
	AK					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	AL	8-124753	5/17/96	Japan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AM	50-78845	6/26/75	Japan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AN	58-39203	3/7/83	Japan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AO					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AP					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)*

	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.